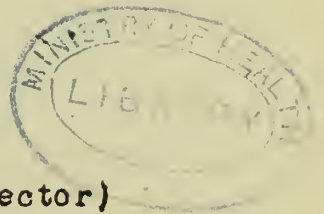


MACHYNLLETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for -

the year ending December 31st, 1954
(including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector)



MEDICAL OFFICER - Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Town Hall,
Newtown,
Mont.

SANITARY INSPECTOR - D. Bryn Jones, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.,
11, Penrallt Street,
Machynlleth,
Mont.

MACHYNLLETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Names of Councillors for the Year ending
31st December, 1954

CHAIRMAN: --- E. W. Jones, Esq.,

VICE-CHAIRMAN --- E. R. Hughes, Esq.,

MEMBERS: Messrs Joshua Davies,
Owen Davies
R. Jones Evans
Morris Griffiths
G. Stanley Hughes
Thomas Hughes
Richard Jones
L. R. Williams,
Richard Williams.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Sanitary Inspector

D. Bryn Jones, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

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To the Chairman and members of the
Machynlleth Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1954. It is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 28/54.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS The birth rate for 1954 was 7.10 per 1,000 population comparing with 14.18 in 1953. The rate for rural districts in the County was 15.86 and in the whole of Montgomeryshire this rate was 15.50 per 1,000 population.

There was 1 still birth in 1954 and in 1953 there were none. This gives a percentage of 4.5 of live births. In the rural districts this was 2.0. per cent and in Montgomeryshire the rate was 2.3%.

There was 1 illegitimate birth being 4.3% of total births. The rate in rural districts was 4.9% and in Montgomeryshire 4.3%

INFANT MORALITY

There was 1 death in an infant under 1 year giving an infant mortality rate of 45 per 1,000 live births, comparing unfavourably with 32 per 1,000 live births in the Rural Districts and with 26 per 1,000 live births in the whole County.

The death of the baby occurred in a male infant of 3 weeks and the cause was bronchitis.

DEATHS

There were 43 deaths from all causes in 1954 giving a rate of 13.8 per 1,000 population. The rate in rural districts was 12.09 and in the whole county 12.33.

There were 2 deaths from Tuberculosis

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

No action had to be taken under this section.

To the Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk I would like to express my appreciation for their help on many occasions.

I should also like to express appreciation for the help I receive from the County Health Department and for the advice on many difficult problems that Dr. J. Ivor Jones the County Medical Officer of Health is always willing to give.

Thanks are also due to Dr. M.N.V. Sudds of the Public Health Laboratory Aberystwyth. It is her department that analyses the numerous samples of water taken from the many small supplies that are scattered throughout the district.

To the members of the Council I would like to say how much I appreciate the keen interest they take in the matters of Public Health and especially in their desire to provide the district with an adequate and wholesome water supply.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

Amelia Evans,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Area in Acres	98,564	98,564
Population (Registrar General's mid year estimate)	3,100	3,100
Rateable Value	£6,877	£6,722
Sum represented by One penny rate	£26. 6s. 9d.	£25

CHANGES IN POPULATION SINCE 1921

	<u>1921 Census</u>		<u>1931 Census</u>	
	<u>Population</u>	<u>% County Pop.</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% County Pop.</u>
Machynlleth R.D.C.	3,911	7.63	3,626	7.48
Rural Districts	32,993	64.36	31,065	64.09
Urban Districts.	18,270	35.64	17,408	35.91

	<u>1951 Census</u>	
	<u>Population</u>	<u>% County Population</u>
Machynlleth R.D.	3,247	7.06
Rural Districts	27,982	60.84
Urban Districts	18,008	39.16

VITAL STATISTICS (Based on the Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate of Population)

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>1954</u>			<u>1953</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	8	13	21	23	17	40
Illegitimate	0	1	1	2	2	4
Total	8	14	22	25	19	44

Birth Rate per 1,000 population for		
Machynlleth R.D.	7.20.	14.18
For the Rural Districts	15.86	
For the Whole County	15.50	16.06

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
One male legitimate birth		N I L
Still births as percentage of live births		
in Machynlleth R.D.	4.5	N I L
In Rural Districts	2.0	
In whole of County	2.3	2.2

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
One male legitimate		1
Rate per 1,000 live births for		
Machynlleth R.D.	45	23
For Rural Districts	32	
For whole County	26	30

DEATHS

	<u>1954</u>			<u>1953</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
(all causes)	20	23	43	24	25	49
Death rate per 1,000 population for						
Machynlleth R.D.	13.87			15.79		
For Rural Districts	12.09					
For Montgomeryshire	12.33			12.39		

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHSAGE GROUP

	<u>1954</u>			<u>1953</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	1	-	1	-	1	1
1 year to 5 yr.	1	-	1	-	1	1
5 yr -	1	-	1	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	1	1
25 -	1	-	1	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	1	-	1	1
45 -	2	1	3	3	-	3
55 -	2	4	6	5	4	9
65 -	3	8	11	5	4	9
75 -	4	8	12	10	13	23
85 and over	4	2	6	1	1	2
	20	23	43	24	25	49

The cause of death of the infant under 1 year was bronchitis. In the age group 1-5 year the cause of death was meningitis. In the age group 5-15 years the cause of death was lymphatic leukaemia.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>1954</u>			<u>1953</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2	1	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mumps	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of						
stomach	-	3	3	3	3	6
" lung, bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-
" breast	-	-	-	-	-	-
" uterus	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3	2	-	2
Leukaemia	2	-	2	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	3	9	3	5	8
Coronary disease (angina)	1	1	2	-	-	-
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	1	9	10	5	11	16
Carried forward	14	19	33	16	26	42

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CAUSES OF DEATH (Continued)

	<u>1954</u>			<u>1953</u>		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total Brought forward ---	14	19	33	16	20	36
Other circulatory disease	-	-	-	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-	*	-	*
Pneumonia	1	-	1	1	-	1
Bronchitis	1	1	2	-	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhea	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	1	2	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	1	1	2
All other accidents	-	1	1	-	-	-
Suicide.	1	-	1	-	-	-
	<u>20</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>49</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The diseases which are notifiable are:-

Scarlet fever, Whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, acute pneumonia, dysentery, small pox, encephalitis, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, erysipelas, meningococcal infections, food poisoning and puerperal pyrexia and it is the duty of a doctor to notify the Medical Officer of any such case occurring in his practice.

No notification of any infectious disease was received.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases notified in the district in 1954. - 4

Pulmonary - Male age 44 years
Male age 48 years
Male age 72 years

Non-pulmonary - 1 female age 22 years with the abdominal glands affected

There were 2 deaths due to pulmonary tuberculosis. One was a man aged 66 and the other a female age 53 originally notified in 1941.

Number of cases on register at the end of the year - 33

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICTAMBULANCE

The local service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone - Machynlleth 158.

Sitting Car Service - all requests to the County Health Department, Newtown, Mont.

Telephone - Newtown 205.

CHILDRENS' OFFICER

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act, 1948. This Children's Officer is:-

Mr. S. M. Parsons,
County Offices,
Welshpool, Mont.

Telephone - Welshpool 228.

The Children's reception Home is at:-

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool,
Mont.

Telephone - Welshpool 109.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

The district is served by:-

Nurse M. Roberts,
Brynmair,
Machynlleth,

Telephone - Machynlleth 129.

Her area covers Derwenlas, Aberhosan, Melinbarhedyn, Forge Uwchygarreg, Pantperthog, and Penegoes.

Sister M. E. Ryder
Penybanc,
Cwmllinau,
Machynlleth.

Her area covers Cemmaes Road, Darowen, Talywern, Cemmaes, Abercegir, Llanwrin and Commins Coch.

Sister L. Evans,
4, Dolybont Terrace,
Llanbrynmair,

Telephone - Llanbrynmair 234.

Her area includes Staylitttle and Talerddig.

HEALTH VISITOR

Miss Eunice Jones is the Health Visitor for the whole of the district. Her address is:-

Gaerwern,
Corris,
Machynlleth.

Telephone - Corris 225.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Home help is available in certain circumstances e.g. in a home confinement, in cases of sickness and with regard to old people. Application should be made to the Supervisor:-

Mrs. R. Goodwin,
County Health Offices,
Newtown, Mont.

Telephone - Newtown 205.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A branch of the Public Health Laboratory is at the Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth under the direction of Dr. Sudds.

Telephone - Aberystwyth 216.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The County Council is responsible for this service.

Infant welfare clinics serving the area are held at:-

1. Machynlleth Church Hall, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 2.0.p.m.
2. Llanbrynmair Village Hall, on second Thursday in each month at 2.30.p.m.
3. Llwynygog, Staylittle on third Tuesday in each month at 2.30.p.m.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The Area Office of the National Assistance Board is at:-

Agricultural House,
Kerry Road,
Newtown,
Mont.

Telephone - Newtown 341.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

The Local Office of the Ministry of National Insurance is at:-

Community House,
Severn Street,
Newtown, Mont.

Telephone - Newtown 284.

TUBERCULOSIS

The service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

Dr. G.O. Thomas the Chest Physician holds clinics at the Machynlleth Chest Hospital every Wednesday at 11.0.a.m.

VACCINATION

Vaccination in this area is carried out by the Local General Practitioners and also at the Infant Welfare Clinic, Machynlleth.

Lymph for vaccination is obtainable from:-

Public Health Laboratory,
Cardiff.

PROTECTION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at approximately 9 months to one year, followed by a booster dose at 5 years.

PROTECTION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH (Continued)

In addition to protection against diphtheria protection against whooping cough is also available. It can be given separately from diphtheria immunisation, or else in combination with it, in which case, three injections at monthly intervals are given commencing at about seven months.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Clinics are held at Shrewsbury and at Oswestry.

(a) 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury

Men - Tuesdays and Fridays 6.0.p.m. - 8.0.p.m.
Women - Mondays and Wednesdays 3.30.p.m. - 5.30.p.m.

(b) The Dispensary, Brook Street, Oswestry.

Men - Thursdays 1.0.p.m. - 2.0.p.m.
Women - Thursdays 2.0.p.m. - 3.0.p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

As has been mentioned in previous reports, generally speaking the standard of the houses in the district are low and they are without modern amenities and these cannot be provided until there is a satisfactory water supply and sewage disposal scheme.

Overcrowding is not very prevalent in the district. The industrial conditions are such that the population is gradually dwindling and the large family of the rural worker is a thing of the past.

It is gratifying to report that a few owners of houses are availing themselves of the financial opportunities offered them under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 namely, improvement grants. Here again the number of houses which can be made to comply with the conditions of the grant are restricted owing to lack of water.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply generally is still unsatisfactory and no improvement may be expected until the comprehensive water supply scheme, which is being pursued by the Council, becomes an accomplished fact. The scheme, as prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers Messrs Wallace Evans & Partners, is intended to supply practically the whole of the district from one source.

The small number of water supply schemes owned by the Council are maintained in a clean condition and periodical bacteriological samples are taken. These showed that the water was not at all times satisfactory and instructions were given to all affected to boil the water before using it for domestic purposes.

There was a drought in the early part of the year and the supply in a number of parishes had to be rationed for a short period.

REFUSE REMOVAL

Three local contractors remove the refuse and night soil from part of the district only and deposited at remote distances from habitation. After a lengthy survey of the district the

Council have selected a site for a "tip" which is centrally situated with a view to having the entire district scavenged.

The present collection of house refuse is not efficient. The passing brook is much too handy a receptacle for rubbish and filth for a number of the villagers who perpetuate the habits of their ancestors who were ignorant of the pestilential possibilities of the fly ridden rubbish heap and the germ laden village ditch.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There is no general sewage disposal scheme except the one or two small schemes for the Council's houses and a sewage scheme is not possible until there is an adequate supply of water throughout the district. As mentioned under "Refuse Removal" the passing brook is made use of far too much for the discharge of crude sewage.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is only one licensed slaughterhouse in the district. Meat inspection is carried out regularly and a small amount of meat was condemned.

ICE-CREAM MANUFACTURE.

No Ice-cream is manufactured within the rural district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The district remains essentially agricultural and there is only one factory in the area where lead is extracted from tin-foil. The sanitary arrangements are inspected periodically.

CAMPING SITES

There were one or two caravans during the summer but not at any time were they in sufficient numbers to warrant the conclusion that any particular piece of land was being used as a general camping ground.

Investigation proved that these few individual campers possessed sufficient knowledge of sanitation and a desire to keep the vicinity clean.

SHOPS ACT1938

The shops are small and of the 'one man' type and no action was taken as to heating, ventilation and closet accommodation.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council have a part-time Rodent Control Operator. There were one or two very minor infestations which were satisfactorily dealt with.

The Council's refuse tip is kept under observation and is de-infested when found necessary.

A number of farms were inspected and those found infested were reported to the Agricultural Executive Committee whose rodent staff promptly dealt with the complaint.

HOUSING

Number of houses erected by the Council during the year	
Number in course of erection by the Council	NIL
Number of houses on approved tender but work not commenced	
Number of dwellinghouses inspected under the Housing Acts	13
Number of dwellinghouses classified as unfit for human habitation --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	8
Number of unfit dwellings dealt with informally and major reconstruction schemes accepted during the year --- ---	NIL
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	NIL
Number of reconditioning schemes approved under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 after service of Notice ---	NIL
Number of reconditioning schemes disapproved after service of Notice under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ---	NIL

INFORMAL NOTICES

Number served --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	9
Number complied with --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	7

STATUTORY NOTICES (P.H.ACTS)

Number served --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	NIL
---	-----

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Number in district --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	NIL
--	-----

BEDBUG INFESTATIONS

Cases reported --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	NIL
--	-----

RAG FLOCK ACT

Number of premises where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	NIL
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VISITS

Total number of visits to various works, water supplies, houses, housing sites, inspections of nuisances etc., ---	940
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NUISANCES

Number of inspections made --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	22
Number of Informal Notices. --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	14
Number complied with --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	8

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